

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A rheology regulator, ~~characterised in that it is a case of comprising~~ a natural calcium carbonate, crushed to a high degree of fineness, with a specific surface area of around 14 to 30 m²/g, ~~preferably around 16 to 24 m²/g and highly preferentially around 20 m²/g,~~ measured according to the BET method to ISO 4652.

2. (Currently Amended) ~~A rheology~~ The rheology regulator according to Claim 1, ~~characterised in that it is a case of a wherein the~~ natural calcium carbonate, crushed to a high degree of fineness, ~~with~~ has a specific surface area of 14.4 m²/g, measured according to the BET method to ISO 4652.

3. (Currently Amended) ~~A rheology~~ The rheology regulator according to Claim 1, ~~characterised in that it is a case of a wherein the~~ natural calcium carbonate, crushed to a high degree of fineness, ~~with~~ has a specific surface area of 16 m²/g, measured according to the BET method to ISO 4652.

4. (Currently Amended) ~~A rheology~~ The rheology regulator according to Claim 1, ~~characterised in that it is a case of a wherein the~~ natural calcium carbonate, crushed to a high degree of fineness, ~~with~~ has a specific surface area of 16.5 m²/g, measured according to the BET method to ISO 4652.

5. (Currently Amended) ~~A rheology~~ The rheology rheology regulator according to Claim 1, ~~characterised in that it is a case of a wherein the~~ natural calcium carbonate, crushed

to a high degree of fineness, ~~with~~ has a specific surface area of $22 \text{ m}^2/\text{g}$, measured according to the BET method of ISO 4652.

6. (Currently Amended) ~~A rheology~~ The rheology rheology regulator according to Claim 1 ~~characterised in that it is a case of a~~ wherein the natural calcium carbonate, crushed to a high degree of fineness, ~~with~~ has a specific surface area of $28 \text{ m}^2/\text{g}$, measured according to the BET method to ISO 4652.

7. (Currently Amended) A rheology regulator according to ~~any one of Claims 1 to 6~~ Claim 1, ~~characterised in that it is a case of a~~ wherein the natural calcium carbonate is treated ~~by means of~~ with at least one fatty acid containing 10 to 24 atoms of carbon or its salt ~~chosen from amongst the salts of~~ selected from the group consisting of calcium salt, magnesium salt, zinc salt ~~or~~ and a mixture thereof ~~and more particularly using stearic acid or its calcium salt~~ in a proportion of around 0.01% to 5% by weight.

8. (Currently Amended) ~~A rheology~~ The rheology regulator according to Claim 7, ~~characterised in that it is a case of a~~ wherein the natural calcium carbonate is treated ~~by means of~~ with at least one fatty acid containing 10 to 24 atoms of carbon or its salt ~~chosen from amongst the salts of~~ selected from the group consisting of calcium salt, magnesium salt, zinc salt, and ~~or~~ a mixture thereof ~~and more particularly using stearic acid or its calcium salt~~ in a proportion of around 1% to 4% by weight.

9. (Currently Amended) ~~A rheology~~ The rheology regulator according to ~~any one of Claims 1 to 8~~ Claim 1, ~~characterised in that it~~ which has an oil absorption which is greater than 16 measured according to ISO 787-V (Rub-out method).

Claims 10-13 (Cancelled).

14. (Currently Amended) A plastisol, ~~characterised in that it~~ which comprises a rheology regulator according to ~~any one of Claims 1 to 9~~ Claim 1.

15. (Currently Amended) A rubber, ~~characterised in that it~~ which comprises a rheology regulator according to ~~any one of Claims 1 to 9~~ Claim 1.

16. (Currently Amended) A sealant or coating or adhesive, ~~characterised in that it~~ which comprises a rheology regulator according to ~~any one of Claims 1 to 9~~ Claim 1.

17. (Currently Amended) A sealant or coating or adhesive according to Claim 16, ~~characterised in that it~~ which further comprises ~~in addition~~ a polyurethane with terminal silane groups and a plasticiser of the phthalate type.

18. (Currently Amended) A sealant or coating or adhesive according to ~~either one of Claims 16 and 17~~ Claim 16, ~~characterised in that it~~ which further comprises ~~in addition to one or more additives chosen from amongst selected from the group consisting of~~ smoked silica as a thixotropic agent, a bleaching agent ~~such as TiO₂~~, a UV stabilizer ~~stabilizers~~, an adhesion promoter, ~~a catalyst such as dibutyltin dilaurate and a catalyst, and a dehydrating agent agents~~ such as a silane.

Claim 19 (New): A method of regulating the rheology during the manufacture of at least one of a sealant, an adhesive, a plastisol, and a rubber, comprising adding natural calcium carbonate, crushed to a high degree of fineness, with a specific surface area of around 14 to 30 m²/g measured according to the BET method to ISO 4652 to at least one of a sealant, an adhesive, a plastisol, and a rubber in an amount to regulate the rheology of at least one of a sealant, an adhesive, a plastisol, and a rubber.

Claim 20 (New): The method of Claim 19, wherein the calcium carbonate has a specific surface area of around 16 to 24 m²/g.

Claim 21 (New): The method of Claim 19, wherein the calcium carbonate has a specific surface area of around 20 m²/g.

Claim 22 (New): The method of Claim 19, wherein the natural calcium carbonate has a specific surface area of 14.4 m²/g.

Claim 23 (New): The method of Claim 19, wherein the natural calcium carbonate has a specific surface area of 16 m²/g.

Claim 24 (New): The method of Claim 19, wherein the natural calcium carbonate has a specific surface area of 16.5 m²/g.

Claim 25 (New): The method of Claim 19, wherein the natural calcium carbonate has a specific surface area of 22 m²/g.

Claim 26 (New): The method of Claim 19, wherein the natural calcium carbonate has a specific surface area of 28 m²/g.

Claim 27 (New): The method of Claim 19, wherein the natural calcium carbonate is treated with at least one fatty acid containing 10 to 24 carbon atoms or a salt thereof selected from the group consisting of calcium salt, magnesium salt, zinc salt, and mixtures thereof.

Claim 28 (New): The method of Claim 19, wherein the natural calcium carbonate is treated with stearic acid or a calcium salt thereof in a proportion of around 0.01% to 5% by weight.

Claim 29 (New): The method of Claim 19, wherein the natural calcium carbonate is treated with stearic acid or a calcium salt thereof in a proportion of around 1% to 4% by weight.

Claim 30 (New): The method of Claim 19, wherein the natural calcium carbonate has an oil absorption which is greater than 16 measured according to ISO 787-V (Rub-out method).

Claim 31 (New): The method of Claim 19, wherein the rheology of a sealant is regulated.

Claim 32 (New): The method of Claim 19, wherein the rheology of an adhesive is regulated.

Claim 33 (New): The method of Claim 19, wherein the rheology of a plastisol is regulated.

Claim 34 (New): The method of Claim 19, wherein the rheology of a rubber is regulated.

Claim 35 (New) A sealant, coating or adhesive prepared according to the method of Claim 19.

Claim 36 (New): The sealant, coating or adhesive of Claim 35, which further comprises a polyurethane with terminal silane groups and a phthalate type plasticizer.

Claim 37 (New): The sealant, coating or adhesive of Claim 35, which further comprises one or more additives selected from the group consisting of smoked silica as a thixotropic agent, a bleaching agent, a uv stabilizer, an adhesion promoter, a catalyst, and a dehydrating agent.

Claim 38 (New): An adhesive prepared according to the method of Claim 19.

Claim 39 (New): The adhesive of Claim 38, which further comprises a polyurethane with terminal silane groups and a phthalate type plasticizer.

Claim 40 (New): A rubber prepared according to the method of Claim 19.

Claim 41 (New) The rheology regulator according to Claim 1, wherein the natural calcium carbonate has a specific surface area of 16 to 24 m²/g measured according to the BET method to ISO 4652.

Claim 42 (New) The rheology regulator according to Claim 1, wherein the natural calcium carbonate has a specific surface area of about 20 m²/g measured according to the BET method to ISO 4652.

Claim 43 (New) The rheology regulator according to Claim 7, wherein the natural calcium carbonate is treated with stearic acid or its calcium salt.

Claim 44 (New) The rheology regulator according to Claim 8, and more particularly using stearic acid or its calcium salt